

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application is related to U.S. Patent No. 6,557,123, issued April 29, 2003 and U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial No. 10/371,628, filed February 20, 2003~~ No. 7,093,182, issued Aug. 15, 2006, both of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A new species of RAID, hereinafter referred to as "RAIDn", is described in commonly assigned U.S. Patent No. 6,557,123, entitled "Data redundancy methods and apparatus", issued April 29, 2003. U.S. Patent No. 6,557,123 describes a data storage apparatus having a plurality of n disks, where data comprising a plurality of data groupings are stored respectively across the plurality of n disks. Each one of the n data groupings comprises a data portion and a data redundancy portion. Advantageously, the n data portions are recoverable from any and all combinations of n-m data grouping(s) on n-m disk(s) when the other m data grouping(s) are unavailable, where $1 \leq m < n$. The disk storage apparatus may be configured for a parameter m which is selectable. In other words, the RAIDn method allows a user to select the level of redundancy (or "device-loss insurance") in the disk array. (For convenience, a notation "n:m" or "(n,m)" is used hereinafter to denote the parameters n and m in a RAIDn.) In particular, U.S. Patent No. 6,557,123 describes a new family of codes, referred to as "Wiencko codes" (pronounced "WEN-SCO" codes), which also enables the RAIDn algorithms. A related method is described in U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial No. 10/371,628, filed February 20, 2003~~ No. 7,093,182, issued Aug. 15, 2006, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent No. 6,557,123. ~~Application Serial No. 10/371,628~~ U.S. Patent No. 7,093,182 describes method and apparatus for providing data recovery in a one or multiple disk loss situation using a set of codes similar to but different from the Wiencko codes. Further, an implementation method for RAIDn is described in U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial No. 10/361,446, filed February 10th, 2003~~ Pub. No. 2004/0158833, published Aug. 12, 2004. The disclosures of the above three U.S. patents and patent applications are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As used in the present application, "RAIDn" is a RAID system according to the principles described in U.S. Patent No. 6,557,123 and/or U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial No. 40/371,628~~ No. 7,093,182, i.e., a RAID system where the level of redundancy is selectable or adjustable. "Conventional RAID", on the other hand, is used in the present application to refer to conventionally known RAID species such as RAID0, RAID1, RAID3, RAID5, RAID6, RAID2 and RAID4, and/or compound RAID's where any of the above RAID types are combined. "RAID" is used to generally refer to any RAID systems, including conventional RAID and RAIDn systems.